Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1990-1991

Saskatchewan Health

92-03562/

Contents

Letters of Transmittal ..... ii, iii
Saskatchewan Health Organization Chart iv
Saskatchewan Health's Mission and Goals v
Saskatchewan's Health System, 1990-91 vi
Department Highlights vii

Community Health-Prevention Services 1
Community Health-Treatment Services 5
Northern Health Services 7
Laboratory and Disease Control Services 9
Health Promotion 11
Hospital Services 13
Continuing Care 16
Planning and Construction 18
Information Systems 19
Medical Care Insurance 20
Prescription Drug Services 21
Finance and Administration 23
Vital Statistics & Health Insurance Registration 24
Mental Health Services 25
Policy and Health Economics 28
Human Resources and Fee Negotiation 30
Communications 31
Resource Management 32

Summary of Legislation 33
Saskatchewan Health Expenditures 35

Tables

1. Hospital Services Payments, 1990-91 15
2. Medical Care Insurance Branch Expenditures, 1990-91 20
3. Vital Statistics, 1989 and 1990 (Calendar Year) 24
4. Primary Registration Activities 24
5. Saskatchewan Health Expenditures, 1989-90 to 1990-91 35

Figures

1. Saskatchewan Health Organization Chart iv
2. Community Health-Prevention Services, Health Regions 3
3. Sexually Transmitted Diseases 9
4. Mental Health Services 26
5. Vacancy Rates for Selected Health Occupations 28
6. Health Spending by Major Category, 1990-91 36

ISSN 0822-160X

Hon. Louise Simard

Letters of Transmittal

To the Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk
Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit, for your consideration, the annual report of Saskatchewan Health for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Honourable Louise Simard
Minister of Health

Dr. Bill MacDonald

Letters of Transmittal

To the Honourable Louise Simard
Minister of Health

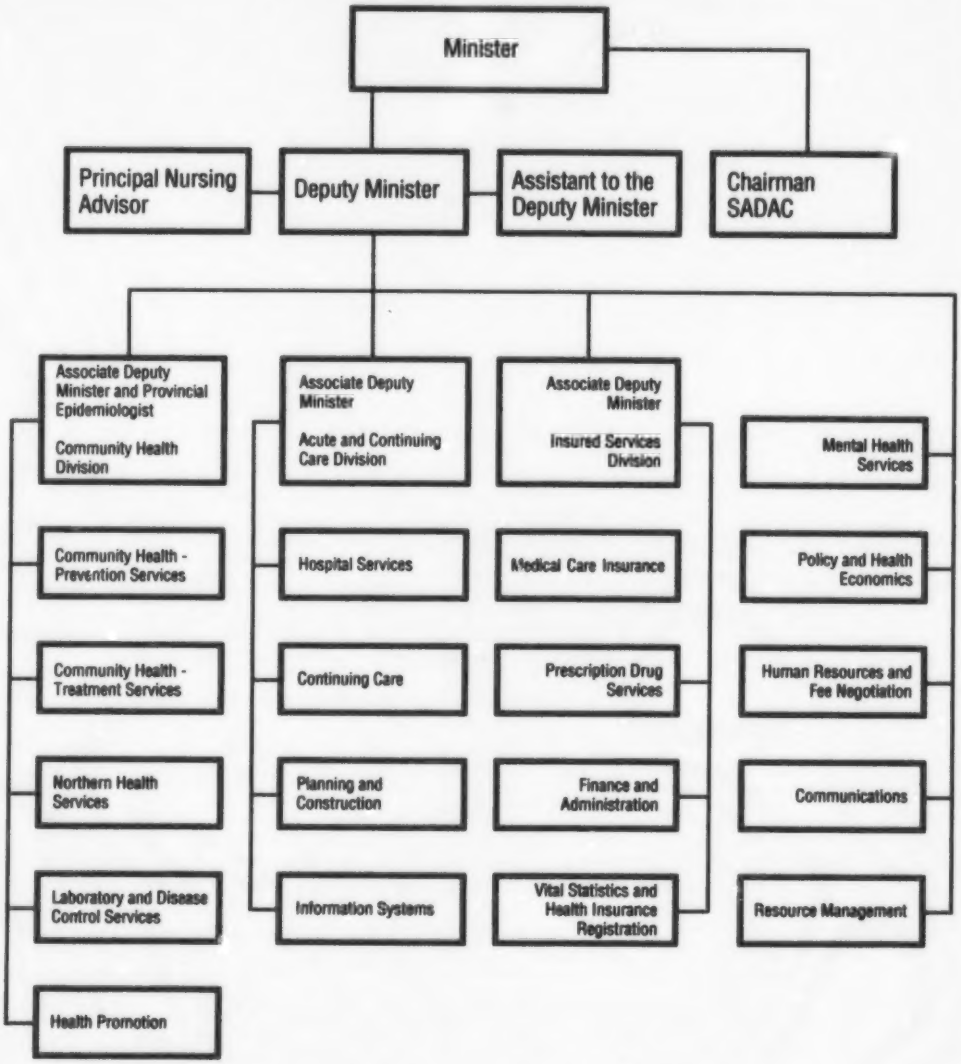
Dear Ms Simard:

It is my honour to present, on behalf of Saskatchewan Health, the annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

W.B. MacDonald, M.D.
Deputy Minister

Figure 1
Saskatchewan Health Organization Chart



Saskatchewan Health's Mission and Goals

Our Mission

Working together for health and well-being

Our Goals

- to provide leadership in achieving health for Saskatchewan people
- to advocate the implementation of healthy public policies by communities and all levels of government
- to promote healthy living and encourage responsible decisions regarding personal health
- to ensure the provision of a comprehensive range of health promotion, disease prevention, diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitative and supportive living services
- to provide equitable access to health services
- to facilitate and strengthen community-based services
- to provide effective products and services that contribute to health
- to ensure planning, evaluation and research of health and health services
- to foster the sharing of responsibility and accountability for health with individuals, families, service providers, communities, and other governments
- to ensure that health services are integrated and coordinated
- to ensure fiscal responsibility throughout the health system

Saskatchewan's Health System, 1990-91*

Covered Population (at June 30, 1990)

- 1,029,352

Department Expenditure

- Spending totalled almost $1.5 billion

Home Care

- 45 home care districts in southern Saskatchewan and 10 community-based programs in northern Saskatchewan
- Almost 7,000 meals delivered each week to home care clients in the 45 home care districts
- 130,000 hours of nursing provided to 9,500 clients and more than 12,000 clients supported with 816,000 hours of homemaking

Mental Health Services

- 103 communities with mental health services: 70 in the south and 33 in the north
- 182 approved homes, 10 group homes and 94 supervised apartment spaces
- More than 17,000 Saskatchewan residents received mental health services in the community from staff in Mental Health Services Branch and Northern Health Services Branch

Community Health Services

- 10 regional offices and 46 district offices in the south; 10 health offices and 33 satellite communities that staff visits in the north
- 114,675 immunizations for children in the south and more than 30,000 client contacts in the north
- 1,478 inspections of eating establishments such as restaurants and concession stands

Health Professionals

- 1,498 physicians; 122 chiropractors; 103 optometrists; 367 dentists and 849 community and hospital pharmacists
- 9,511 registered nurses; 1,100 registered psychiatric nurses and 2,761 certified nursing assistants (at December 31, 1990)

Assistive Devices

- 33,934 mobility aids, wheelchairs and other special equipment lent to people with disabilities. This equipment is owned by Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living.

Medical Care Insurance

- More than 9.3 million claims totalling $271 million
- The average annual cost of physician services per person treated was $275.77

Prescription Drug Services

- 5.6 million claims totalling $89.7 million
- 2,046 drugs covered by the Saskatchewan Formulary

Ambulance Services

- 108 ambulance boards
- 65,940 road ambulance trips; 552 air ambulance trips

Laboratory Services

- 910,200 diagnostic tests performed for physicians
- $885,187 invoiced to researchers for pharmacoepidemiology research projects

Hospitals

- 134 hospitals
- 1,994,051 patient days of care funded in Saskatchewan hospitals
- One long-term psychiatric hospital with 177 clients and 10 hospitals with psychiatric wards

Special-care Homes

- 162 special-care homes, which include 15 integrated facilities (combined acute and long-term care)
- 10,321 long-term care beds in special-care homes and in 106 hospitals

* at March 31, 1991

Department Highlights

- **Released** the Minister's Health Promotion Advisory Committee's **Healthy Living Goals documents** to the public and began promoting community action to help meet the goals.

- **Conducted the "Great Medicine Cabinet Clean-up"** in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association. This campaign was designed to raise consumer awareness about safe use and storage of drugs.

- **Introduced Canada's first "Personal Medication Diary"** to assist Saskatchewan seniors in using drugs more safely and appropriately.

- **Established Canada's first province-wide telephone drug information service** for consumers in cooperation with the College of Pharmacy, University of Saskatchewan.

- **Introduced a new personal health card,** which features a lifetime health number. This number is designed to improve health record-keeping, encourage more responsible use of health services and reduce processing and mailing costs associated with the former family health cards.

- **Developed and distributed an AIDS information package** to all households in the province during AIDS Awareness Week.

- **Established the Saskatoon Health Services Authority** to provide greater coordination of hospital services in Saskatoon.

- **Completed Phase II construction at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre** (115 replacement and 55 new level 4 beds; and 53 replacement and one new Veterans' Affairs Canada bed).

- **Developed new mental health initiatives** which include:
  - a mental health advisory council to provide input into the development of mental health priorities and direction;
  - improved rehabilitative services to provide for expanded residential and vocational programs and improved mental health services for seniors;
  - expanded child and youth mental health services in rural areas;
  - a new youth suicide prevention program; and
  - additional resources to northern Saskatchewan.

- **Published four editions of Healthy Living newsletter,** which has a distribution of 85,000 and is targeted to businesses, health groups and members of the public.

- **Continued to work with researchers** interested in studying the beneficial and adverse effects of drugs on the population. Saskatchewan Health's comprehensive data are recognized internationally as a resource for this research.

- **Licensed the province's first paramedics.** Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians-Advanced staff now serve 10 communities and surrounding areas.

- **Helped license all medical laboratories** in Saskatchewan.

Community Health-Prevention Services

Objectives

The Community Health-Prevention Services Branch aims to protect, maintain and improve people's health by providing community-based services. Services include public health nursing, public health inspection, nutrition counselling, early childhood psychology, speech and language therapy, and dental health education.

Highlights

- Extended Fluoride Mouthrinse Programs to 17 new schools for a total of more than 14,500 students participating in a weekly fluoride rinsing program.
- Produced *A Parent's Guide to Dental Health*, a booklet designed to educate parents on the development and care of their children's teeth.
- Presented more than 50 Dental Health Month babies with a preventive dental health basket during April.
- Saw more than 700 people attend the popular Eat Smart for Your Heart classes, which focus on low-cholesterol diets and heart disease prevention. More than 300 people took an Eat Smart Grocery Store Tour.
- Saw 2,352 food service workers complete the Saskatchewan National Sanitation Training Program and 275 people graduate from swimming pool operators courses.
- Developed a new approach to pediculosis (lice) management and control, which emphasizes health education and parental involvement.
- Implemented the Nobody's Perfect Program. An education program for parents of preschool children, it is specifically intended to meet the needs of young, single, low-income, and socially and geographically isolated parents.

Organization

The province is divided into 10 health regions which cover all areas, excluding Regina, Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan. (The city health departments are responsible for Regina and Saskatoon, while Northern Health Services Branch covers northern Saskatchewan.) The central office in Regina is responsible for the overall operation, administration and coordination of community-based services and activities.

Major Activities

Regional Director/Medical Health Officer

The regional director/medical health officer is responsible for the overall medical and administrative direction of public health programming in each health region. Medical health officers monitor epidemiological and statistical information, advise other health professionals, and enforce standards of child health, communicable disease, immunization and environmental programs. Special emphasis is placed on regional programs which emphasize the family, the environment and lifestyle choices.

Public Health Nursing

Public health nurses deliver programs aimed at reducing communicable diseases, improving prenatal care, intervening at an early stage for vision, hearing and speech problems, decreasing family violence and stress, and developing healthy family relationships.

Public Health Inspection

Public health inspectors protect the public from physical, chemical and biological hazards. They offer education programs, enforce regulations under *The Public Health Act* and control shoreland pollution. As well, they ensure a safe water and milk supply, enforce standards for eating establishments and public swimming facilities, inspect new plumbing installations, and ensure general sanitation.

Nutrition

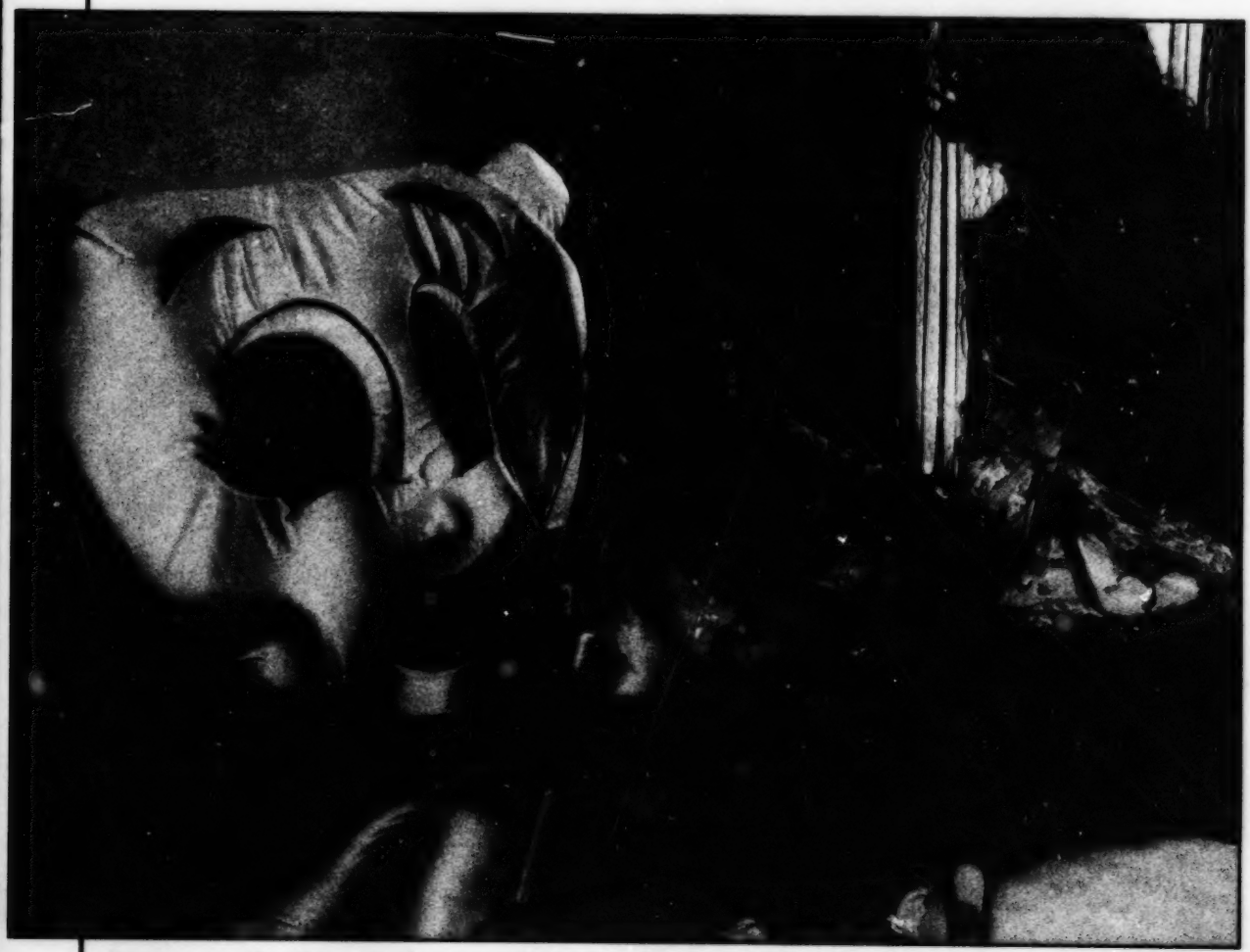
Nutritionists assess the nutrition needs of the community, and coordinate nutrition programs which emphasize health promotion and disease prevention.

Early Childhood Psychology

Early childhood psychologists work with children and their families to identify developmental and behavioural problems. These psychologists intervene at the earliest possible age to help children function better in society and to improve family relationships. They do this through assessment therapy, counselling, and referrals to other agencies.

Dental Health Education

Dental health educators provide preventive programs aimed at reducing dental disease. They direct these programs towards preschool and school-age children, postnatal groups, seniors and people in other special-need groups.



Everyone was all smiles as Charlie Chew, a life-sized tooth, presented a Regina mom and baby with a preventive dental health basket. Dental health educator Grace Ford is on the right. More than 50 babies received these baskets during April — Dental Health Month — to encourage early preventive dental health care. **(Reprinted with permission of the Leader-Post.)**

Figure 2
Community Health-Prevention Services, Health Regions

Key for Health Regions

No. 1 Swift Current (45,586)
No. 2 Moose Jaw-Assiniboia-Gravelbourg (66,315)
No. 3 Weyburn-Estevan (49,425)
No. 5 Regina Rural (76,228)
No. 7 Rosetown-Biggar-Kindersley (38,898)
No. 8 Saskatoon Rural (47,665)
No. 10 Yorkton-Melville (78,549)
No. 11 Melfort-Tisdale (69,858)
No. 12 Prince Albert (80,278)
No. 13 North Battleford (82,507)
Regina city (178,792)
Saskatoon city (183,579)

Note: Population served is given in parentheses — covered population at June 30, 1990 included Registered Indians and excluded northern Saskatchewan.

The population shown for North Battleford Health Region 13 includes the Alberta side of Lloydminster city (10,201).

⊙ Regional Office
* District Office
○ City Health Office

Speech-Language Pathology

Speech-language pathologists identify and treat communication disorders at the earliest possible age through diagnostic, consultative, therapeutic and educational services. They also help prevent speech and language delays by counselling and educating parents about normal speech development.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Community Health-Prevention Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-1501

Community Health-Treatment Services

Objectives

The Community Health-Treatment Services Branch is organized to bring treatment, rehabilitation and support services to people in their own communities. These services include physiotherapy and occupational therapy, chiropody, audiological and other services for the hearing-impaired, and equipment loan and other support for people with disabilities.

Highlights

- Extended the Community Therapy program to include eight more special-care homes. Service is now provided to 90 hospitals and 98 special-care homes in 115 communities.
- Completed a review of the Community Therapy program, which included a satisfaction survey of patients, hospitals, special-care homes and care providers. The survey indicated a high level of satisfaction with the service.
- Started a review of the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living program, including its mandate, focus and range of benefits.
- Adopted a branch mission statement to provide guidance and focus for all branch activities: "Bringing treatment, rehabilitation and support services to people where they live."

Part of an occupational therapist's work includes using splints to help clients maintain the movement and function of their joints.

Organization

The branch provides central direction and coordination for program service delivery units in 30 locations, taking service into 115 Saskatchewan communities through a network of clinics, satellite clinics and outpatient therapy centres.

Major Activities

Community Therapy

Community therapists treat people with physical and functional disabilities, and consult with and educate the public and other health professionals. These physiotherapists and occupational therapists provide services to rural hospitals, rural special-care homes, community health agencies, community groups and people in their own homes.

Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan

Audiologists provide comprehensive hearing testing, counselling and education services, while audiometric technicians focus on hearing aid fittings and related technical services. As well, the plan provides for repair services and quality aids at low costs, loaner aids at no charge, and FM hearing aids to hearing-impaired preschool children. Services are available through six full-time and six part-time clinics.

Chiropody

Chiropodists treat foot problems through medical, mechanical and minor surgical means. The service is primarily directed towards the elderly; however, everyone has access. Services are available through 10 permanent and 23 satellite clinics.

Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living

This program aims to maintain or improve the independence of people with disabilities by providing them equipment and other support. Referral by designated health professionals entitles people to be registered for benefits such as mobility and environmental aids and other special equipment, as well as support for costs of drugs and supplies required by certain conditions.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Community Health-Treatment Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-7107

Northern Health Services

Objectives

Northern Health Services Branch provides a variety of health services to residents of northern Saskatchewan. These include primary care, public health nursing, mental health services, physician services, children's dental services, home care, public health inspection, nutrition counselling, speech and language pathology and health education.

Highlights

- Made more than 30,000 contacts with clients in six communities through nursing and physician clinics in primary care health centres.
- Improved service by expanding the mental health program to include two additional mental health social workers.

Organization

The branch is organized on a program basis, each program reporting to either the executive director or the assistant executive director.

Nurses in northern Saskatchewan make about 30,000 contacts with clients each year. In this photo, a nurse checks a client's blood pressure.

Major Activities

Dental

The northern Children's Dental Plan provides treatment to children up to 17 years of age and to adults on an emergency basis. This year, about 4,600 children saw a dentist at least once and a visiting dental team more often.

Nursing

Thirteen primary care nurses are based in six communities, making about 30,000 contacts with clients per year. These nurses provide emergency and medical assistance, coordinate physician visits, and provide public health programs. Six public health nurses based in four other communities serve residents who have ready access to physician and hospital services.

Home Care

Community-based home care programs are designed to allow northerners to remain in their own homes as long as possible rather than seeking institutional care. Home care staff serves more than 400 clients.

Public Health Inspection

Public health inspectors protect the public from physical, chemical and biological hazards. They also educate people about environmental health, particularly proper food handling.

Health Education

Health Education promotes healthy lifestyles and focuses on disease prevention through health fairs, workshops and individual consultations. Three health educators and one nutritionist administer this program, and serve as a resource for health professionals and community members.

Mental Health

Community mental health nurses and mental health social workers ensure that people with mental health problems receive assistance and counselling. They do this by maintaining regular contact with all northern communities, including clinics, the courts, Social Services agencies and Indian band offices. These health professionals provide social and vocational training, a mental health education and public awareness program, and assessment and counselling throughout the north.

Community Health Educators

Community health educators are community members who work with all health agency representatives to promote preventive health education programs, and provide interpretive services to people speaking Cree and Dene.

Medical Transportation

The medical transportation coordinator arranges transportation for people receiving social assistance who are referred by authorized health professionals. This year 6,075 people used this service.

For more information, contact:

Northern Health Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
Box 5000
La Ronge, Saskatchewan
S0J 1L0
Phone: (306) 425-4510
Toll-free: 1-800-772-4069

It didn't take long for Alice Ratt to discover that the only thing even remotely "routine" about her job is the hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Alice was born in the northern Saskatchewan community of Pinehouse. She was hired last year as a community health educator for that remote community, and has since learned to expect the unexpected.

Last September, she was just learning the ropes in her new job when she was called to the scene of a serious accident involving a rolled truck. Together with the Pinehouse clinic's head nurse, Alice Olson, she rushed to the scene of the accident and aided the three injured passengers.

"I was scared but excited," said Alice. "But I kept my head and did whatever I could to help."

The role of a community health educator is part nurse, part teacher, part travel agent and part social worker. One day will find Alice giving vision tests to children at a local school, while the next may find her arranging out-of-town medical trips for patients requiring treatment in Prince Albert or Saskatoon. On yet another day, you might find her conducting well-baby or immunization clinics, postnatal visits to new mothers, or organizing a health fair for the residents of the area.

Being a community health educator has been eventful for Alice, but one memory stands out above the rest. Three weeks before Christmas, a woman about to give birth walked into the clinic. Under normal circumstances, the pregnant woman would have been taken to La Ronge or Prince Albert for the delivery, but there wasn't enough time.

While the nurses prepared for the delivery, Alice called the air ambulance and tried to make the woman as comfortable as possible, helping with breathing exercises. All the while, Alice held the nervous mother-to-be's hand and provided reassurance. Less than two hours later, Alice was bundling up a newborn baby girl in preparation for the air ambulance trip to La Ronge.

"It was the most beautiful thing I've seen in my whole life," said Alice. "I'll always remember that I was the first person to hold that baby and I'll get to know her a little better because I'm going to be her god-mother."

It comes as no surprise to learn that Alice was "walking on air the whole day after."

So, next time you meet a community health educator, remember, it's not just a job, it's an adventure.

Laboratory and Disease Control Services

The Laboratory and Disease Control Services Branch operates laboratories that perform tests on specimens received from hospitals and physicians, and on specimens collected for environmental monitoring. The branch collects and analyzes statistics on the incidence of communicable disease in the province, and distributes vaccines to hospitals, doctors' offices, health regions and other medical centres. The branch also manages the Tuberculosis Control Program, including identification, treatment, monitoring, education and prevention.

As well, the branch researches and assesses the adverse and beneficial effects of drugs on the population while the Laboratory Licensing Unit administers *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Act.*

- Identified one baby with phenylketonuria (PKU) and identified three babies with hypothyroidism. Early diagnosis enables treatment and prevents retardation.
- Performed 910,200 tests for physicians requesting clinical diagnostic services in bacteriology, chemistry, mycology, radiochemistry, serology, toxicology, urine hormones and virology.
- The Laboratory Licensing Unit assisted the Medical Laboratory Licensing Board in developing the licensing program, including preparations for issuing the first licenses, effective April 1.

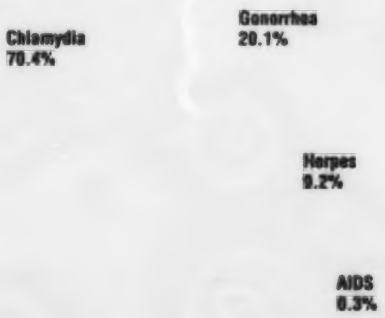
The branch is organized along major program lines: Provincial Clinical Laboratory (comprising Microbiology, Chemistry, and Toxicology), Environmental Sciences Laboratory, Communicable Disease Control, Tuberculosis Control, Pharmacoepidemiology, Medical Laboratory Licensing, and Support Services.

Communicable Disease Control

The Communicable Disease Control Unit offers consultation and support services to health professionals and individuals, and distributes vaccines and immune globulin for disease prevention and treatment. The division serves as the main agency for the collection and analysis of communicable disease statistics.

Fifteen cases of AIDS were reported in 1990 compared with seven cases in 1989. The number of Saskatchewan cases remains lower than the national average with a cumulative number of 47 cases reported. There have been 30 deaths.

The Tuberculosis Control Program provides a broad range of services to diagnose, treat and prevent tuberculosis. In northern communities, mobile clinics ensure cases are diagnosed early and provide drugs to control the disease.



Protective Tests

The branch conducts tests on selected specimens to detect unsuspected threats to health. These tests allow corrective or defensive measures to be adopted before serious harm is done. In this year, the branch:

- tested water supplies from municipal systems, private wells and swimming pools;
- analyzed air samples from foam-insulated homes to check for formaldehyde;

- tested fish from Saskatchewan lakes and rivers for mercury;
- carried out 9,619 tests on retail dairy products; and
- screened newborn babies for phenylketonuria (PKU) and hypothyroidism.

Clinical Diagnostic Services

Modern medicine relies on laboratory tests to aid in the early diagnosis of illness and to permit timely treatment when required. In this year, the Provincial Clinical Laboratories:

- performed diagnostic tests for physicians;
- assisted in 565 medicolegal investigations (a 24-hour poison identification service is available to physicians to aid in diagnosing patients who ingest a poison or drug); and
- offered technical advice to diagnostic laboratories on test procedures.

Research Activities

The Pharmacoepidemiology Unit works with researchers interested in studying the beneficial and adverse effects of drugs on the population. Saskatchewan Health's comprehensive data are recognized internationally as a resource for this research.

Medical Laboratory Licensing

The Licensing Unit administers *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Act* and assists the Medical Laboratory Licensing Board with licensing all medical laboratories in Saskatchewan. As well, it provided proficiency check samples to 139 hospital laboratories and 12 physicians' labs.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Laboratory and Disease Control Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3211 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 5W6
Phone: (306) 787-3131

Health Promotion

Objectives

The Health Promotion Branch helps educate the public on health and lifestyle improvements. It also provides educational and resource centre support to government departments, other providers of health services and department staff.

Highlights

- Published four editions of Healthy Living preventive health newsletter, which has a distribution of 85,000 and is sent to individual households, businesses, and health networks.

More than 1,800 entries poured in for the Quit Smoking and Win Contest. Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Interagency Council on Smoking and Health, the contest required smokers to butt out for at least three months. The majority stayed smoke free. Reviewing entries are health educator Enez Holunga (left) and Health Promotion director Kathy Seaman (right).

- Promoted the EVERYONE WINS program by developing and providing information materials, participating in public gatherings and special events, and by speaking to community, business and health professional groups.
- Saw the number of telephone inquiries increase by 600 per cent (to 2,500 per month) and the number of publications distributed increase by 25 per cent (to 108,000 per month).
- Expanded the range of Healthy Living services to include:
  - the Healthy Living Centre in Regina which provides public access to a wide range of print information and interactive computer programming;
  - the Healthy Living Health Information Line which offers callers recorded health messages on various topics; and
  - the Healthy Living Educational Series for businesses which offers learning opportunities for employees.

Organization

The branch includes the Health Promotion and Education Unit, and the Resource Centre.

Major Activities

- Released the Minister's Health Promotion Advisory Committee's Healthy Living Goals documents to the public and began promoting community action to help meet the goals.
- Sponsored the second Team Health tour by Saskatchewan Roughriders to 638 schools involving 38,000 students. Team Health speakers reinforced the value of making healthy lifestyle choices.
- Provided 155 community and sponsorship grants totalling $371,064 to community groups and organizations to develop and present health promotion projects.
- Developed lines of communication and working relationships with 500 businesses in Saskatchewan to encourage workplace wellness programs.
- Established protocol and completed evaluation of a number of health promotion programs in order to validate and improve future programming, for example readership surveys, telephone and in-person questionnaires.
- Began targeting programming to special groups within the broader category of general public,

for example seniors, aboriginal people, and people with low-level reading skills.

- Began research and planning for a pilot study on a home study course on family health.
- Added 150 new video cassettes to the branch's loan library (the total collection is now 350).
- Provided resource centre services to more than 1,100 borrowers, representing provincial government staff, health professionals and university students.

For more information, contact:

Health Promotion Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3084
Toll-free: 1-800-667-7766

Hospital Services

Objectives

The Hospital Services Branch manages the province's Hospital Care Insurance Plan and the Ambulance Program. It also provides funds to the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation, community clinics, physical therapy clinics, community health and social centres, the College of Medicine, the Canadian Red Cross Society and other groups.

Highlights

- Evaluated several technologies with the Technology Advisory Committee, a multi-disciplinary committee which advises the branch on the introduction and use of technologies in the province.
- Established the Saskatoon Health Services Authority to provide greater coordination of hospital services in Saskatoon.
- Sponsored pilot programs with other agencies on same-day surgery and home intravenous administration.
- Completed Phase II construction at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre (115 replacement and 55 new level 4 beds; and 53 replacement and one new Veterans' Affairs Canada bed).
- Opened a new pediatric unit at Pasqua Hospital to replace 25 beds in the old facility.
- Began construction of the new St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan. This 140-bed facility will provide acute care, acute chemical rehabilitation, a day hospital program and a new 40-bed long-term care unit.
- Provided financial assistance for recruiting medical specialists in regional hospitals.
- Began construction of six new integrated facilities at Craik, Eatonia, Edam, Imperial, LaFleche and Montmartre.
- Licensed the province's first paramedics. Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians-Advanced staff now serve 10 communities and surrounding areas.

Organization

The branch is divided into the following sections: Hospital Programs/Planning; Finance, Systems, Benefits and Ambulance Services; and a separate Operational Review Unit.

Major Activities

The branch spent $753.5 million for programs it administers, including $605 million in operating funds for the province's 134 hospitals. (See Table 1.)

Hospital Care

People receive hospital services at no direct charge for a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures delivered on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

Ambulance Services

Ambulance Services provides consultative assistance to local ambulance boards and operators. It establishes and monitors standards, licenses services and attendants, and provides operating grants for the province's 108 ambulance boards. It also administers the Air Ambulance and Senior Citizens Ambulance Assistance Programs.

A review and update of the Air Ambulance Program has led to a major upgrade of medical equipment for the Saskatoon and Regina bases, development of new medical and nursing protocols, and delivery of an aeromedical training program for pilots and attending staff.

This year the department licensed the province's first full paramedics. Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians-Advanced staff now serve 10 communities and surrounding areas.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation

The Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation is responsible for the province's cancer control program and operates the Allan Blair Memorial Clinic in Regina and the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic. The Cancer Foundation began operating pilot sites for the Screening Program for Breast Cancer. The stationary site in Regina serves the city and surrounding area, while a mobile unit provides services to women north of Saskatoon from Hudson Bay to the Battlefords.

Community Clinics

Community clinics offer a wide range of health services provided by physicians and other professionals. Community health associations provide clinic facilities and equipment, and the branch provides the operating budgets. Community clinics operate in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Wynyard.

Physical Therapy Services

Eleven privately-owned physical therapy clinics provide therapy services under contract with the department. These clinics are located in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, North Battleford and Manitou Beach. One osteopathic physician is located in Regina.

The Clinical Services Fund

The Clinical Services Fund finances 211 medical intern and resident positions. It also provides funding for College of Medicine faculty members and other service-related activities associated with medical education.

Community Health and Social Centres

Community Health and Social Centres provide outpatient diagnostic and treatment services through regular visiting physicians. Other program components include an on-call nurse to provide 24-hour emergency service; public health services; a homemaker/home care program; a social activity program primarily for elderly people; and other home care services such as Meals on Wheels.

These facilities receive funding from both Saskatchewan Health and Family Foundation's Seniors' Secretariat.

Red Cross Society

The branch funds 100 per cent of the Canadian Red Cross Society's blood transfusion service costs, 100 per cent of plasma fraction products costs, and 80 per cent of blood donor recruitment costs. The Red Cross operates blood transfusion service centres in Regina and Saskatoon.

The Hospital Revenue Act

The branch administers *The Hospital Revenue Act,* which requires municipalities to pay an annual two mill Hospital Revenue Tax if they do not support a hospital by direct payments or by participating in a Union Hospital District. The government disburses these funds to the hospitals those municipalities' residents use most.

Integrated Facilities

Integrated facilities bring together a hospital and a licensed special-care home in one building. They are designed to meet the needs of smaller communities that have limited long-term care and acute care needs. The branch is responsible for the acute care component of the program, and the Continuing Care Branch has program responsibility for special-care residents.

At March 31, 1991, 15 integrated facilities with a total of 188 long-term and 158 acute care beds were operating in the province.

Table 1
Hospital Services Payments
1990-91

Payments to Saskatchewan hospitals	$630,275,809
Less recoveries from Continuing Care and Alberta	(24,892,796)
	$605,383,013
Payments to Community Clinics	$10,441,148
Private physiotherapy/osteopathy	2,435,983
Payments to the Canadian Red Cross	7,563,919
Miscellaneous grants	3,046,483
Reciprocal billing: in-province hospitals	316,927
Payments to out-of-province hospitals	36,949,395
Recoveries from third-party liabilities	(3,292,774)
SUBTOTAL	$662,844,094
Grant to Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation	$24,198,927
Grants to support the Medical Education System (Clinical Services Fund)	14,067,992
Grants to hospitals under the Hospital Revenue Act	671,673
Grants and allowances for ambulance services	11,362,325
Hospital and ambulance administration	4,218,563
TOTAL OPERATING	$717,363,574
Grants to hospitals - repayment of principal and interest on capital loans from the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation	36,166,233

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Hospital Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-7419

Continuing Care

The Continuing Care Branch develops and coordinates a range of long-term care services to best preserve the independence and quality of life for people needing support.

- Developed a self-assessment guide for special-care homes to evaluate the care and services in their facilities.
- Funded new care positions to allow existing special-care homes to provide heavier care.
- Completed five construction projects for a total of 120 new and replacement beds in special-care homes and integrated facilities.
- Initiated a home intravenous therapy pilot project. This project enables people to receive ongoing treatment at home rather than remain in the hospital.
- Established a joint-funding committee with the Saskatchewan Home Care Association to revise the Home Care funding formula.
- Delivered an assessment and care coordination training program to all home care districts.

The branch comprises three program sections: Home Care, Special-care Homes and Personal Care Homes. These sections are supported by administration/information systems and policy units.

Home Care

Home Care helps people remain independent at home by providing acute, palliative and supportive care. The program is designed to supplement the support provided by the family and community.

The program is available in 45 districts in southern Saskatchewan. Each district is served by a non-profit home care corporation with an elected board. Home care services are provided by local boards in 10 communities in northern Saskatchewan, and are coordinated by Northern Health Services Branch.

Home Care provides assessment and care coordination, nursing, homemaking (home management and personal care), meals, minor home maintenance for client safety, and volunteer services coordination. Applicants must have a Saskatchewan health services card and an assessment of need before they receive services. There are no client fees for nursing, volunteer services or assessment and care coordination. Other service fees vary according to the client's income.

Special-care Homes

The Special-care Homes Program ensures that appropriate long-term institutional programs are available to people who need more care and supervision than is available in their own homes.

Services are delivered by 162 special-care homes with 9,569 beds and 106 hospitals with 752 beds. Eighteen facilities have adult day programs, and 75 provide 108 beds for respite care, providing support for family caregivers.

Anyone who requires institutional care is eligible. Each facility has the final authority to determine who is admitted, although most rely on District Coordinating Committee (DCC) recommendations. DCCs are established locally to coordinate long-term care and typically are composed of representatives from the local special-care homes, hospitals, home care agencies and housing authorities.

Personal Care Homes

Personal care homes provide accommodation, meals and assistance or supervision with personal care to adults not related to the operator.

Regulations to ensure the care and safety of residents are being developed in consultation with operators, health care associations, home care districts and major municipalities. *The Personal Care Homes Act* will be proclaimed when the regulations are finalized.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Continuing Care Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3628

Planning and Construction

Objectives

The Planning and Construction Branch provides leadership, direction and assistance to communities in identifying health needs. It also helps them plan for their future needs through integrated community-based programs and institutional options. The branch supports the program needs of Continuing Care Branch and Hospital Services Branch.

Highlights

- Saw five special-care home projects completed and 19 major projects in planning or construction. Twelve of these are integrated facilities, six of which are under construction.

- Saw four major hospital renovation and/or replacement construction projects completed, another eight under construction and 15 in various stages of planning. Six of these are integrated facilities.

Organization

In conjunction with Hospital Services and Continuing Care, the branch provides a coordinated and integrated approach to planning health services at the local level. It also involves other branches in this coordinated approach.

Highlights

- Continued renovating the administration wing of Wascana Rehabilitation Centre.
- Continued constructing Saskatoon's new City Hospital.
- Started construction on the new replacement hospital for St. Joseph's in Estevan.

For more information, contact:

Planning and Construction Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3268

Information Systems

Objectives

The Information Systems Branch plans and coordinates centralized automated information systems development and implementation within the department.

Highlights

- Coordinated the distribution of the new personal health card to all residents of Saskatchewan.
- Implemented a pilot project in emergency rooms of two major hospitals which use the new personal health card to identify any drugs a patient has been taking so that potentially harmful drug interactions during treatment can be avoided.
- Established a department-wide support centre for microcomputer users.
- Improved data communications and data sharing by installing a central microcomputer network connecting 150 department users.

Organization

The branch consists of the Information Systems and Central Office Systems sections. The branch reports to the chief information officer.

Major Activities

The branch provides services to the department by:

- establishing and maintaining a department informatics strategic plan;
- providing central computer support to the microcomputer users;
- providing central coordination of all hardware and software acquisitions;
- assisting branches to prepare proposals for acquiring computer hardware, software and related consulting services;
- liaising with outside agencies and vendors to acquire computer hardware, software and other resources;
- providing and coordinating central microcomputer training; and
- establishing department policies and standards on computer technology and procedures.

For more information, contact:

Information Systems Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-1167

Medical Care Insurance

Objectives

The Medical Care Insurance Branch manages the Medical Care Insurance Plan, the Children's Dental Program, and the Supplementary Health Program.

Highlights

- Saw 88.2 per cent of Saskatchewan beneficiaries receive insured services during the year from a physician, 22.8 per cent from an optometrist, and 12.1 per cent from a chiropractor. The average annual cost of physician services per person treated was $275.77.
- Processed more than 9.3 million claims for insured services under the Medical Care Insurance Plan. About 50 per cent of claims are submitted via computer.

Organization

The branch is organized along major program lines: Medical Care Insurance, Children's Dental Program and Supplementary Health.

Major Activities

The branch spent $295.5 million on programs and administration.

Table 2
Medical Care Insurance Branch Expenditures, 1990-91

Medical Care Insurance Plan	$271,088,612
Supplementary Health Program	6,979,213
Children's Dental Program	10,922,475
Administration	5,733,534
Continuing Medical Education	700,000
Grants to Support Health Services	72,392
TOTAL	$295,496,226

- Made payments totalling $289 million under the branch's program areas. Administration costs accounted for another $5.7 million (two per cent of program costs). The branch also made payments to support the Saskatchewan Medical Association's Continuing Medical Education Fund, an optometric summer student program, and a dental residency program.
- Liaised with the various service providers on an ongoing basis to enhance the effectiveness of the programs it administers.

Medical Care Insurance Plan

The cost of insured services is covered for services provided to beneficiaries by physicians, chiropractors and optometrists. Payment generally is made on a fee-for-service basis in accordance with Medical Care Insurance Branch payment schedules, which reflect agreements reached with the various professional associations.

Children's Dental Program

The Children's Dental Program provides preventive services, treatment and dental education services to children ages five to 13 through about 300 private practice dentists.

A total of 131,881 children were registered during the program year September 1989 to August 1990. Of these, 90.8 per cent visited a dentist one or more times during the year.

Supplementary Health

Supplementary health benefits cover non-insured health services for people nominated by Saskatchewan Social Services such as social assistance recipients, government wards, inmates of correctional institutions and residents of special-care homes whose income is at or below the Saskatchewan Income Plan level. Coverage includes certain medical and dental services, drugs and appliances, optical services and transportation costs.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Medical Care Insurance Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3475

Prescription Drug Services

Objectives

The Prescription Drug Services Branch administers the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan. This plan makes prescribed drugs more accessible and affordable to residents, while ensuring quality, availability and therapeutic cost-efficiency.

The Personal Medication Diary is intended to encourage the safe use of medications by helping Saskatchewan seniors keep track of any prescription and over-the-counter medicines they may be using.

Highlights

- Established Canada's first province-wide telephone drug information service for consumers in cooperation with the College of Pharmacy, University of Saskatchewan.
- Introduced Canada's first "Personal Medication Diary" to assist Saskatchewan seniors in using drugs more safely and appropriately.
- Conducted the "Great Medicine Cabinet Clean-up" in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association. This campaign was designed to raise consumer awareness about the safe use and storage of drugs.
- Increased the number of drug products eligible for coverage from 1,929 to 2,046 and processed almost 5.6 million prescription claims.
- Provided a program of protection against extreme drug costs for more than 960,000 eligible residents, and paid benefits averaging more than 65 per cent of the total value of prescriptions obtained.
- Continued to provide a point-of-service statement on the total value and benefits received, the only health benefit program in Canada to do so.

Organization

The branch is organized into three divisions: Claims, Professional Services and Administration.

Major Activities

- Co-conducted a major review of 1989 drug utilization, as part of ongoing efforts to improve the appropriateness of drug therapy.
- Conducted a major review of available antibiotic drug therapy through the Saskatchewan Formulary Committee.
- Provided almost $90 million in benefits to Saskatchewan people. This is the highest amount in the 15-year history of the program.
- Provided benefits at an average value of more than $175 for each Saskatchewan family.
- Maintained annual family deductibles at 1987 levels, the lowest in Canada.
- Issued price-tender calls for almost 1,900 drug products, and awarded more than 500 price contracts for drugs, resulting in price decreases for competitive brands.
- Managed an automated claims network linking 334 Saskatchewan pharmacies with the program.

- Provided more than 300,000 potential abuse and health care advisories to pharmacies, using the plastic card claims network. These advisories resulted in the cancellation of more than 30,000 prescriptions.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Prescription Drug Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
11th Floor, Avord Tower
2002 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7
Phone: (306) 787-3317
Toll-free consumer inquiry line: 1-800-667-7581

Finance and Administration

Objectives

The Finance and Administration Branch provides financial and administrative support services to department programs that help them meet the department's goals and objectives.

Highlights

- Emphasized a new approach to customer service through team-building, enhanced morale and a focus on meeting customer needs.
- Provided guidance on the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax within the department.
- Improved cash management by coordinating the implementation of the grant rescheduling and electronic funds transfer initiatives for the department. These initiatives involved scheduling grant payments with recipients' cash flow needs and transferring funds electronically to their local banks or credit unions.

Organization

The branch is divided into three units: Financial Services, Accounting, and Property Management.

Major Activities

The branch provides timely financial and administrative support services appropriate to the needs of department programs. These services are:

- financial and administrative policy development and advice;
- budgeting and forecasting;
- accounts payable and receivable;
- payroll;
- procurement and stockroom services;
- accommodation management;
- central mail and records management; and
- recoveries from the federal government under federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements.

For more information, contact:

Finance and Administration Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3052

Vital Statistics & Health Insurance Registration

Objectives

Vital Statistics registers births, marriages, deaths, divorces, adoptions, and name-changes. It also publishes extensive statistical information for other agencies and for the public.

Health Insurance Registration registers Saskatchewan residents for health services, and issues Saskatchewan health services cards. It also provides information for administering numerous provincial government programs, and publishes annual population reports.

Highlights

- To provide streamlined direct services to the public, Vital Statistics and Health Insurance Registration united under single management.
- Issued 1,013,535 health cards bearing Saskatchewan's new lifetime personal health numbers.
- Registered 14,636 new families as beneficiaries of Saskatchewan Health programs.
- Issued more than 60,000 vital statistics certificates.

Organization

The branch is divided into two sections: Vital Statistics and Health Insurance Registration.

Major Activities

Vital Statistics works closely with local registrars, most of them municipal secretaries and town/city clerks who regularly report births and deaths. Clergy and marriage commissioners report weddings, while the courts report divorces and adoptions. This information is shared with Statistics Canada in Ottawa for compiling national vital statistics.

Besides registering new or returning residents for health care benefits, Health Insurance Registration closely monitors the population to ensure that only Saskatchewan residents are eligible to receive health care benefits. It does this by working with other agencies, and by liaising with field staff in five locations throughout the province.

Table 3
Vital Statistics
1989 and 1990 (Calendar Year)

	1989	1990*
Population (1,000s)	1,007	1,000
Live Births	16,651	16,031
Rate per 1,000 Population	16.6	16.0
Deaths	7,920	7,953
Rate per 1,000 Population	7.9	8.0
Stillbirths (28+ Weeks Gestation)	65	62
Rate per 1,000 Live Births	3.9	3.9
Marriages	6,637	6,228
Rate per 1,000 Population	6.6	6.2
Divorces and Annulments	2,417	2,379
Adoptions in Saskatchewan	574	705
Changes of Name	767	742
Certificates Issued	64,322	67,581

*Preliminary figures

Table 4
Primary Registration Activities

	1989/90	1990/91
New Family Registrations	13,393	14,636
Family Address Changes	70,780	96,413
Deaths	8,171	8,363
All Beneficiary Changes	375,661	436,421
Social Services Nominations and/or Cancellations	44,112	43,464
Health Services Cards Mailed	123,384	1,155,710*
Covered Population	1,036,862**	1,029,352**

*includes corrected, replacement and new cards
**as of June 30

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Vital Statistics & Health Insurance Registration Branch
Saskatchewan Health
1919 Rose Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7
Phone: (306) 787-3092

Mental Health Services

Objectives

The Mental Health Services Branch ensures that all residents have access to comprehensive mental health services. The branch provides or oversees a full range of community-based services and hospital programs in each of the eight mental health regions. Private practitioners and voluntary non-profit organizations provide complementary services.

Highlights

- Saw new initiatives approved for:
  - improved rehabilitative services to provide for expanded residential and vocational programs and improved mental health services for seniors;
  - expanded child and youth mental health services in rural areas;
  - a new youth suicide prevention program; and
  - additional resources to northern Saskatchewan.
- Established the Saskatchewan Mental Health Advisory Council to provide the Minister and other senior officials with consumer, family and community input on mental health issues. Regional advisory committees are being developed.
- Developed a branch document, aimed at other government departments and non-government agencies, that outlines treatment and preventive services as well as health promotion objectives for all major program areas.
- Continued to operate one of Canada's most extensive and comprehensive community-based mental health services by providing services on a regular basis in 70 communities.
- Established a Provincial Forensic Advisory Committee with participation from Health, Social Services, Justice and the federal government. This committee is responsible for joint planning and oversees service delivery for people requiring mental health services who are in conflict with the law.

Organization

The branch reports to the Deputy Minister and is responsible for mental health services in the eight mental health regions in southern Saskatchewan. (See Figure 4.) It employs psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses and therapists. Services are organized into four areas: adult/community, child and youth, rehabilitation and residential, and inpatient. Specialized services such as treatment programs for sexual offenders are provided in several of these program areas. As well, many mental health services are provided in partnership with non-government organizations, health professionals in private practice and volunteers.

Major Activities

Adult Community Services

The branch provides direct and indirect clinical and consulting services for adults through diagnostic and treatment services; counselling and support for community clients; treatment of a wide variety of mental health problems; and consultation and support to other agencies. The branch encourages and assists people in participating in their own care.

Child and Youth Services

The branch uses a wide range of individual counselling and family and group work methods to treat children and teenagers experiencing emotional problems. Services to children and youth are delivered in all eight mental health regions and are managed directly by the branch. Freestanding specialist facilities exist in Regina and Saskatoon regions, at Regina Child and Youth Services and at MacNeill Clinic. These clinics function as major referral centres.

Rehabilitation and Residential Services

The branch offers psychiatric rehabilitation, which includes medical therapy and case management services to people with long-term mental illness.

In cooperation with government departments and non-government agencies, the branch provides support for members' clubs and community service centres for recovering patients; family support groups; transitional employment programs; social skills training; case management services; and consultation, planning and information on all aspects of psychiatric rehabilitation.

Figure 4
Mental Health Services

Key

- Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford
- Psychiatric Ward
- Mental Health Main Centre
- Clinic with Resident Staff
- Part-time Mental Health Clinic
- Community Liaison Workers

The branch funds 182 approved boarding homes, 10 group homes, 94 supervised apartment spaces and follow-up programs to people living on their own or with their families. The branch funds 16 non-government organizations to provide community-based rehabilitation services to people with chronic mental illness. These services complement and supplement those services provided directly by the branch.

Inpatient Services

The branch provides diagnostic and treatment services to acute care clients on an inpatient basis in all eight regions. Saskatchewan residents are hospitalized for mental disorders as frequently as residents of other provinces, but they are more likely to be cared for in community hospitals and to remain in care for shorter periods of time. In 1990, an average of 140.5 inpatients received care in mental health centres and stayed an average of 21.3 days.

The branch operates the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, which is the only provincial mental health facility to provide long-term care and rehabilitation services. It provides inpatient services to an average of 177 clients.

Prevention and Promotion

The branch is involved in and supports mental health public education, promotion and prevention activities. The branch launched a five-year mental health promotion campaign, highlighting the relationship between mental and physical health. In partnership with government, non-government and community agencies, the branch participated in Family Forums across the province and in the Western Canada Farm Progress Show.

Forensic Services

The branch provides court-ordered psychiatric assessments, as well as specialized court assessments of adult perpetrators of spousal violence and sexual assaults. Young offender assessments are provided to youth courts under *The Young Offenders Act* for sexual and other crimes committed by youth. Special treatment services for sexual offenders and perpetrators of spousal violence are available in some centres.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Mental Health Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3286

Policy and Health Economics

Objectives

The Policy and Health Economics Branch helps develop broad health policies, conducts economic analyses and evaluations of health-care programs, develops policies regarding manpower resources in the health sector, and coordinates and brings a broad policy perspective to the development of department legislation.

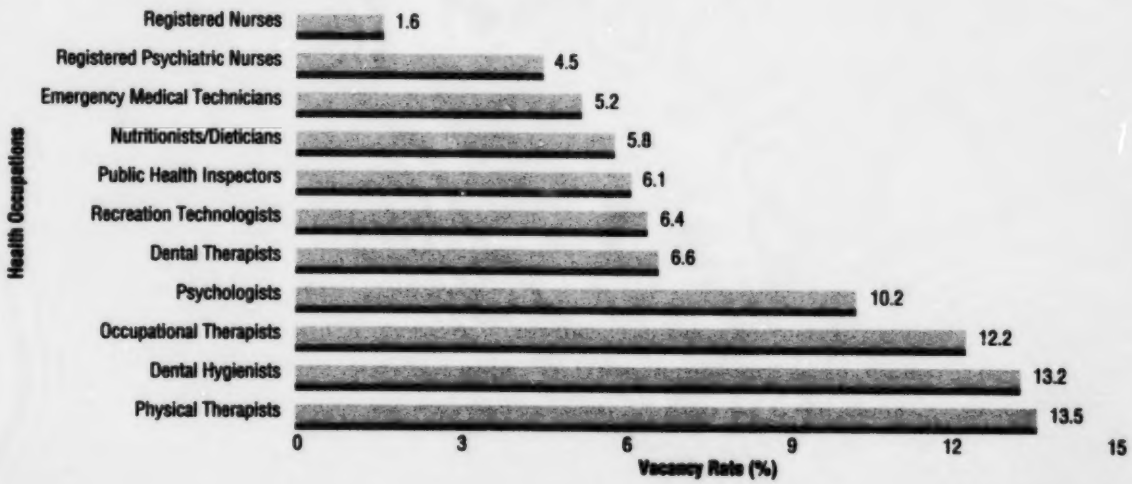
Highlights

- Completed a comprehensive study of prescription drug use in Saskatchewan.
- Completed negotiations concerning *The Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Act* requiring the professional association to register qualified professionals, set standards of practice, and investigate public complaints of misconduct or incompetence. This Act will serve as a model for all future acts governing professional associations.
- Initiated background work on developing population health goals for Saskatchewan.
- Coordinated department follow-up on the recommendations of the Saskatchewan Commission on Directions in Health Care.
- Funded and distributed a series of videos promoting careers in the health sciences in cooperation with the University of Saskatchewan.
- Initiated a major background study of Total Health Centres, an alternate way to fund and provide health services in Saskatchewan.

Organization

The branch reports to the Deputy Minister and is divided into three units: Economics and Evaluation; Health Human Resources and Legislation; and Policy and Intergovernmental Liaison.

Figure 5
Vacancy Rates for Selected Health Occupations (1990 Saskatchewan Health Employer Survey)



Major Activities

- Coordinated briefing materials for several interprovincial and federal-provincial meetings for the Minister and Deputy Minister.
- Provided continuing support for the development of a department strategic plan, one that focuses on health rather than health care.
- Conducted an annual health employer survey to identify vacancy rates for health occupations in Saskatchewan.
- Prepared a report on Native Health Issues: Proposed Principles and Goals in cooperation with other provinces.
- Compiled a summary of interprovincial health data comparison in health program services, health expenditures, institutional care, health care personnel and health status indicators.
- Contributed to the development of family expenditure statements for Saskatchewan residents.
- Represented the department on a variety of national and provincial boards, committees and work groups.
- Provided staff support to the Deputy Minister's office on a wide range of issues.

For more information, contact:

Policy and Health Economics Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3143

Human Resources and Fee Negotiation

Objectives

The Human Resources and Fee Negotiation Branch provides comprehensive human resource and staff development services to the department, including monitoring and observing fee negotiations with professional groups.

Highlights

- Funded 27 new and 48 continuing bursaries in difficult-to-recruit professions such as occupational and physical therapy, public health inspection and speech pathology.
- Undertook extensive recruitment for difficult-to-recruit professions.
- Improved service to the public and enhanced employee participation by facilitating team development workshops across the department.
- Implemented a pilot project on staffing which promoted interbranch cooperation and participation on budgets, staffing and associated issues.

Organization

The branch reports to the Deputy Minister and delivers services in three major areas: Human Resources, Staff Development and Fee Negotiation.

Major Activities

Human Resource Management

Human Resource Management delivers department-wide support services that include:

- consultation services on managing the human resource function; and
- helping managers by:
  - providing advice on organization design, including classification and compensation matters;
  - assisting in hiring;
  - administering employee benefits plans and records managements; and
  - interpreting collective agreements; participating in the collective bargaining process; and assisting with grievance resolution, corrective discipline and performance management.

Staff Development

Staff Development works with department managers to develop a strategy and plan to meet branch and individual staff development priorities, using a creative range of tools such as taped learning, book reviews, teleconferences and lunch presentations. It also administers a bursary program to meet demands for difficult-to-recruit professions.

Fee Negotiation

Fee Negotiation involves negotiating fee schedules with branch managers and professional groups such as physiotherapists, dentists, denturists and optometrists.

For more information, contact:

Human Resources and Fee Negotiation Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-6125

Communications

Objectives

The Communications Branch offers advice and support in planning, creating and delivering information to the public about the department's programs and services.

Highlights

- Coordinated media and developed communications material for projects such as:
  - The AIDS information package (mailed to all Saskatchewan households during AIDS Awareness Week, the information was intended to help families better understand and prevent the disease);
  - the Personal Medication Diary (mailed to all Saskatchewan seniors, the diary is designed to encourage safe use of all medications by helping seniors keep track of medicines they are using); and
  - the new personal health card (the new lifetime number is intended to improve health record-keeping, encourage more responsible use of health services and reduce processing and mailing costs associated with the former family health cards).
- Developed and implemented a non-paid media strategy on Saskatchewan radio and television stations, which resulted in significant promotion for the department. Ongoing campaigns include television talk show appearances and radio public service announcements.

Organization

The branch reports to the Deputy Minister.

Major Activities

The branch provides service to the department by:

- developing the annual communications strategic plan;
- developing individual communication plans for major initiatives;
- providing design and production advice on print, audiovisual, television and radio production projects;
- liaising with outside production agencies;
- producing department news releases and planning and coordinating news conferences;
- preparing speaking notes for the Deputy Minister and the Minister;
- coordinating special events such as sod turnings and hospital/special-care home openings;
- coordinating non-paid media programs;
- preparing the department's annual report;
- providing a media monitoring service on health issues; and
- fielding calls from the public on the Saskatchewan Health Inquiry Line.

For more information, contact:

Communications Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3696

Resource Management

Objectives

The Resource Management Branch is an internal resource to assist in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and operational units.

Highlights

- Completed a review of the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living program to ensure available resources were targeted at people with the greatest need.
- Facilitated a team building and strategic planning process with the Communications Branch.
- Presented work simplification sessions to several branches and used work simplification techniques for several projects, including the staffing process.

Organization

The branch reports to the Deputy Minister.

Major Activities

The branch serves the department by providing organization and program review; organization, program and policy development; and strategy implementation.

For more information, contact:

Resource Management Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6

Summary of Legislation

The Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Act was passed to regulate speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the province. The legislation allows the professional association to register qualified professionals, set standards of practice for members and investigate and take disciplinary action on public complaints of member misconduct or incompetence.

The Saskatchewan Embalmers Act was amended to allow the Saskatchewan Funeral Services Association greater authority and flexibility to set bylaws regulating advertising by funeral home operators.

Regulatory Changes

Amendments were made to:

Change of Name Exemptions Regulations, 1990
Public Health Services Grants (Regina and Saskatoon) Regulations, 1990
Hospital Standards Amendment Regulations, 1990
Plumbing and Drainage Amendment Regulations, 1990
Saskatchewan Hospitalization Amendment Regulations, 1990
Vital Statistics Amendment Regulations, 1990
Medical Care Insurance Beneficiary and Administration Amendment Regulations, 1991
Dental Care Beneficiary Amendment Regulations, 1991
Prescription Drugs Regulations, 1991
Medical Care Insurance Payment Amendment Regulations, 1991
Medical Care Insurance Beneficiary and Administration Amendment Regulations, 1991 (No. 2)
Saskatchewan Hospitalization Amendment Regulations, 1991
The Vital Statistics Amendment Regulations, 1991

The following regulations were repealed:

Provincial Laboratories Charges Repeal Regulations
Road Ambulance Repeal Regulations

Acts Administered by Saskatchewan Health

The Abandoned Refrigerator Act
The Ambulance Act
The Anatomy Act
The Change of Name Act
The Dental Care Act
The Department of Health Act
The Health Services Act
The Hearing Aid Act
The Hospital Revenue Act
The Hospital Standards Act
The Housing and Special-care Homes Act
The Medical and Hospitalization Tax Repeal Act
The Mental Health Services Act
The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations Act
The Prescription Drugs Act
The Public Health Act
The Saskatchewan Health Insurance Act
The Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act
The Union Hospital Act
The Venereal Disease Prevention Act
The Vital Statistics Act

Acts in which Saskatchewan Health has a Direct Interest

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission Act
The Cancer Foundation Act
The Certified Nursing Assistants Act
The Chiropody Profession Act
The Chiropractic Act
The Community Health Unit Act
The Dental Technicians Act
The Dental Therapists Act
The Denturists Act
The Emergency Medical Aid Act
The Health Research Act
The Home Care Act
The Human Tissue Gift Act
The Lloydminster Hospital Act, 1948
The Medical Care Insurance Supplementary Provisions Act
The Medical Profession Act, 1981
The Medical Radiation Technologists Act

The Medical Scholarships and Bursaries Act
The Naturopathy Act
The Ophthalmic Dispensers Act
The Optometry Act, 1985
The Osteopathic Practice Act
The Pharmacy Act
The Physical Therapists Act, 1984
The Professional Dietitians Act
The Psychiatric Nurses Act
The Registered Nurses Act, 1988
The Registered Occupational Therapists Act
The Registered Psychologists Act
The Saskatchewan Embalmers Act
The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act
The South Saskatchewan Hospital Centre Act
The Tuberculosis Sanatoria and Hospitals Act
The University Hospital Act
The Wascana Rehabilitation Centre Act
The White Cane Act

Saskatchewan Health Expenditures

Table 5
Saskatchewan Health Expenditures
1989-90 to 1990-91

Program		Total Expenditure ($ Thousands) 1989-90	1990-91	Percentage Distribution 1990-91
Total		$1,433,859	$1,564,488	
Operating Expenditures:				
Acute Care				
Hospital Services	(1)	$ 602,885	$ 663,516	44.4
Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation	(3)	20,853	24,199	1.6
Ambulance Services	(4)	10,143	11,366	0.8
Hospital Tax Expenditures - operating		7,970	—	—
SUBTOTAL		641,851	699,081	46.8
Grants to Special-care Facilities		203,394	220,202	14.8
Insured Services				
Medical Care Insurance		258,268	271,789	18.2
Prescription Drug Plan		76,120	89,672	6.0
Children's Dental Plan	(2)	10,685	10,992	0.7
Supplementary Health Services	(2)	6,777	6,979	0.5
SUBTOTAL		351,850	379,432	25.4
Community Services				
Grants and Allowances for Home Care		27,432	30,143	2.0
Mental Health Services		30,419	33,471	2.2
Community Health Services		16,235	16,454	1.1
Grants to Health Agencies	(3)	21,888	23,830	1.6
Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission		15,756	14,869	1.0
Laboratory and Disease Control		10,103	12,003	0.8
Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living		9,103	10,894	0.7
Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan		2,205	2,357	0.2
Northern Health Services		5,372	5,968	0.4
SUBTOTAL		138,513	149,989	10.0
Other				
Accommodation and Mail		18,154	14,736	1.0
Administration and Support Services		28,502	29,436	2.0
SUBTOTAL		46,656	44,172	3.0
TOTAL		$1,382,264	$1,492,876	100.0
Capital	(5)	$ 51,595	$ 71,612	

(1) Includes payments under *The Hospital Revenue Act.*
(2) Dental services associated with social assistance clients are included in Supplementary Health Services.
(3) Grants to health agencies include grants to city health departments and other health agencies, grants assisting clinical services provided by the medical education system, grants to the Saskatchewan Health Research Fund, grants for mental health services and grants for cancer research.
(4) Includes grants to ambulance district boards and payments for air ambulance services.
(5) Comprised of project loans advanced through Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation.

Figure 6
Health Spending by Major Category, 1990-91